

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for carrying a vehicle spare tire, said apparatus comprising:

a swing arm member for being pivotably attached to the vehicle at one end;

5 a pivot arm pivotably attached to the swing arm and supporting a spare tire for movement between a raised position wherein the spare tire is located above ground and a lowered position wherein the spare tire substantially contacts the ground;

a tire support fixedly connected to the pivot arm for mounting the spare tire;

a mechanism which secures the pivot arm to the swing arm once the pivot arm is
10 substantially parallel to the swing arm; and

a mechanism which secures the swing arm so that it will not pivot.

2. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the tire support fixedly connected to the pivot arm for mounting the spare tire includes at least one lug for securing the tire to the tire support and material extending past the lug which supports the tire in a manner to
15 permit the tire to rotate and be aligned with the lug.

3. The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising a device which provides a mechanical advantage in pivoting the pivot arm.

4. The apparatus of Claim 3, wherein the device which provides a mechanical advantage comprises a manual winch.

5 5. The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein the tire support fixedly connected to the pivot arm for mounting the spare tire includes at least one lug for securing the tire to the tire support and material extending past the lug which supports the tire in a manner to permit the tire to rotate and be aligned with the lug.

6. The apparatus of Claim 2, further comprising a device which provides a
10 mechanical advantage in pivoting the pivot arm.

7. The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein the device which provides a mechanical advantage is a manual winch.

8. The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein the tire support fixedly connected to the pivot arm for mounting the spare tire includes at least one lug for securing the tire to the
15 tire support and material extending past the lug which supports the tire in a manner to permit the tire to rotate and be aligned with the lug.

9. An apparatus for carrying the spare tire for a vehicle, comprising a tire support for mounting a spare tire and the tire support includes at least one lug for securing the tire to the tire support and material extending past the lug which supports the tire in a manner to permit the tire to rotate and be aligned with the lug.